

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Milford held their regular meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024, in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. Chairman Vetro called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Chairman Vetro asked those present to join in saluting our flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Board Members

M. Arciuolo, II
E. Beatty
B. Bevan
M. Casey
J. Federico
P. Healy
A. Fowler
J. Jenkins
S. Marlow
H. Mulrenan
R. Pacelli, Jr.
W. Smith
P. Vetro
R. Vitali
W. Willis

Also Present

Mayor Anthony S. Giannattasio
J. Berchem, City Attorney
K. Fortunati, City Clerk
P. Erodcij, Finance Director
J. Rosen, Chief of Staff

Excused:

Mayor Giannattasio welcomed the Milford Eagles Tiny Mites Cheerleading Team and Milford Eagles Junior Varsity Cheerleading Team. He congratulated both teams on their achievements.

Ald. Mulrenan requested a 5-minute recess.
Chairman Vetro called a 5-minute recess at 7:48 p.m.
Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

2. Public Statements

Public statements are limited to the legislative function of the Board of Aldermen. He stated only residents; taxpayers or electors may address the Board. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. He asked each speaker to adhere to the three-minute limit.

A. King, 32 Cedarhurst Lane, spoke regarding the Mayor's appointments to boards and commissions.

M. Rusanowsky, 201 Wolf Harbor Road, spoke concerning the community gardens and increased fees.

S. Hess, address unknown, spoke concerning the community gardens and the major benefits of the garden.

T. King, 213 Buckingham Avenue, spoke in support of the appointment of Scott Monforte.

S. Stanek, 19 Noble Avenue, spoke concerning reappointment to the Animal Shelter commission.

W. Domeracki, 41 Maxwell Drive, spoke concerning the community gardens and increased fee.

D. Patchen, 356 Wheelers Farm Road, spoke in support of the appointment of Scott Monforte.

T. Folsom, 11 Mills Avenue, spoke concerning the community gardens and increased fees.

S. Goode, 554 Boston Post Road, spoke concerning the community gardens and increased fees.

P. Marciano, 96 Maple Street, spoke concerning the community gardens and increased fees.

J. Wasenski, 146 High Street, Unit 302, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

N. Smith, 11 Andover Drive, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

M. Kranyak, address unknown, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

K. Kamen, 76 Whitney Avenue, spoke concerning the Animal Shelter commission appointments.

C. Montalbano, 30 Revere Place, spoke concerning appointments to boards and commissions.

M. Nevins, 88 Cooper Avenue, spoke concerning the community gardens and increased fees.

K. Boath, 91 Hickory Avenue, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

P. Smith, address unknown, spoke concerning appointments to board and commissions and qualified volunteers.

C. Ramos, 139 Meadowside Road, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

S. Mason, 211 Plains Road, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

L. McMaster, 56 Whalley Avenue, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

S. Hine, 10 Meetinghouse Lane, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

G. Holler, address unknown, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

T. Jackson, 336 West River Street, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

P. Richard, 12 Live Oaks Road, spoke concerning the community gardens and the increased fees.

J. Farina, 31 Bonsilene Street, spoke concerning the conduct at the January 8th meeting.

C. Milewski, 32 Baker Street, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

R. Monforte, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

C. Thomas, 84 Thompson Street, spoke concerning the appointment of Scott Monforte.

3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board Aldermen held on January 8, 2024.

Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board Aldermen held on January 8, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Ald. Mulrenan noted last month the Board voted to reappoint Susan Stanek and for the new appointment of Kimberly Jenkins to the Animal Shelter Commission.

4. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Organizational Meeting.

None

5. Chairman's Report and Communications

Chairman Vetro stated he will look to add discussion concerning community gardens to next agenda. He reminded all members of the board that order and decorum needs to be maintained at all times.

6. Mayor's Report and Recommendations

Mayor Giannattasio thanked the public for coming out and expressing their concerns. He spoke concerning appointments and reappointments to boards and commissions. Mayor Giannattasio announced the reappointment of (D) Mary Beth Stickley, 56 Sandpiper Crescent, 06460 as a member of the Council on Aging, term to expire 12/31/25. He asked for the Boards consideration of items 8a through 8j.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

Ald. Arciuolo requested a 5-minute recess.
Chairman Vetro called a 5-minute recess at 9:05 p.m.
Chairman Vetro reconvened the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

8. New Business (from Mayor's Report Items 8a-8f)

(8a) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Vincent J. Averaimo, 306 Housatonic Drive, 06460, as a member of the Fire Commission, term to expire 12/31/26. Motion failed 8 against (Arciuolo, Beatty, Federico, Healy, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Willis), 7 in favor (Bevan, Casey, Fowler, Jenkins, Marlow, Smith, Vitali).

(8b) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve the reappointment of (R) Scott G. Moulton, 15 Myrtlewood Drive, 06461, as a member of the Board of Finance, term to expire 12/31/26. Motion carried unanimously.

(8c) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Scott J. Monforte Sr., 39 Baker Street, 06461, as a member of the Park, Beach, and Recreation Commission, term to expire 12/31/26.

Ald. Bevan stated this is an open seat to replace the seat held by him on the Commission. He further stated if Mr. Monforte is not approved he will resume his seat on the Commission. Ald. Federico asked if this appointment replaces the vacancy created by Ald. Bevan what is the intention to fill the other expired term. Mayor Giannattasio stated Mr. Monforte would be filling the vacancy left by Ald. Bevan. Ald.

Mulrenan asked if Felicia Shashinka's name will be brought forth for reappointment. Mayor Giannattasio stated what is before the Board is to fill the vacancy created by Ald. Bevan. Ald Marlow stated this appointment should not be tied into what might happen with other appointments to the commission. Ald. Pacelli stated the agenda item was unclear as to which position was being filled.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8d) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) John E. Ranges, 144 East Street, 06460, to fill a present vacancy on the Housing Code Board of Appeals, to fill a present vacancy, term to expire 12/31/27.
Motion carried unanimously.

(8e) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) Arienne Orozco, 354 Wheelers Farms Road, Unit 107, 06461, to fill a vacancy on the Fair Rent Commission as a Tenant, term to expire 12/31/24.

Ald. Vitali asked if this a new commission and if so why the motion is to fill a vacancy. Chairman Vetro stated commission was previously created and the seats on the commission are now being filled.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8f) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (U) Jorge A. Santiago, 76 Noble Avenue, 06460, to fill a vacancy on the Fair Rent Commission as a Citizen, term to expire 12/31/25. Motion carried unanimously.

(8g) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Marlow made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (R) Buddy Prete, 293 Woodruff Road, 06461, to fill a vacancy on the Fair Rent Commission as a Landlord, term to expire 12/31/24. Motion carried unanimously.

(8h) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (U) Jamil Azhari, 178B Seaside Avenue, 06460, to fill a vacancy on the Board of Health, term to expire 12/31/24.

Ald. Arciuolo stated Mr. Azhari is a good neighbor and Milford business owner and will do a great job in this position.

Motion carried unanimously.

(8i) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (D) John Mortimer, 41 James Street, 06460, as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board to fill the present vacancy, term to expire 12/31/25. Motion carried unanimously.

(8j) Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Beatty made and seconded a motion to approve the appointment of (IT) Rev. M. Ashley Grant, 31 Winthrop Court, 06460, as a Representative for the Milford Clergy Association for the Milford Department of Human Services, term to expire 12/31/26. Motion carried unanimously.

9. New Business not on the Agenda that may be introduced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

None

10. Budget Memo Transfers.

None.

11. Refunds

11a. Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$17,719.55. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Report of Standing Committees

a. Ordinance Committee –

Ald. Pacelli reported the Ordinance Committee met earlier this evening and voted to refer 2 ordinances to the full board for consideration.

12a-1 Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Arciuolo made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance Adopting Chapter 7, Article I, In General, Section 7-6, Fire Apparatus Access and Water Supply.

Ald. Marlow asked for an explanation of close proximity. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden discussed collapse zones and what is necessary to stage fire department apparatus. Ald. Marlow asked if the ordinance would impact existing roads. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated newly constructed roads will need to meet the requirements. Ald. Marlow asked if apparatus will be changed to better comply with access. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated the apparatus will not change. Ald. Smith asked who will be responsible for providing fire apparatus access. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated the access will be provided by the developer. Ald. Smith asked what would happen in areas not supplied with hydrants. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated if a new road is constructed it will require a water main to provide adequate water supply. Ald. Smith asked if the Board of Fire Commissioners having jurisdiction of the hydrants is new. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated the hydrants were a regulation.

Motion carried 14 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Federico, Fowler, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 1 against (Smith).

12a-2 Ald. Pacelli and Ald. Mulrenan made and seconded a motion to approve an Ordinance Adopting Chapter 7, Article VI, Prohibition of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations in Underground Parking Garages.

Ald. Marlow asked for an explanation of the ordinance. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden discussed the risks of electric charging stations located in underground parking structures. He stated above-ground and grade level parking structures are not included in the prohibition. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden discussed injuries, structural damages and collapses caused by underground EV charging station fires. He stated 1/3 of EV charging station fires start while connected to vehicles or within one hour of being disconnected. He stated the temperature of fires caused by EV charging stations are much higher than other type fires. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated an EV fire can take up 20,000 gallons of water. Ald. Vetro asked if any other municipalities have similar ordinances. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated this would be the first in Connecticut and perhaps the nation. Ald. Vetro asked if there are any EV charging stations in underground parking garages. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated there are EV charging stations planned for 44 River Street that were approved prior to this ordinance. Ald. Marlow asked if this will result in electric vehicles not be permitted to park in underground garages. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated that would be the decision of the property owner. Ald. Marlow asked how the state requirements for parking can be met. Deputy Fire Marshal stated there can be challenges. He discussed placing EV charging stations above-ground or applying to the state for modifications. Ald. Fowler asked what the other 2/3 factors of EV relate fires. Deputy Fire Marshal stated it can be several things such as faulty battery or damage to the vehicle with loose wires. Ald. Fowler asked how the ordinance will work should additional laws be passed by the state legislature. Deputy Fire Marshal Suden stated the statutes supersede the ordinance and it may require an amendment should there be new laws passed by the state legislature. Ald. Smith asked the cost for installation of EV charging stations. Fire Marshal Rabel stated the charging stations are mandated by state law and the proposed ordinance is to say they cannot be installed underground.

Ald. Federico made a motion to move the question to a vote. Ald. Smith stated he has the floor and has a number of questions that he would like to ask. Ald. Vetro stated the purpose is to put an ordinance in place to prevent EV charging stations in underground parking garages. Ald. Pacelli stated there may be a typo in 7-84 that should be addressed. He commented that Section 7-84 is just restatement of the state mandate and is not an additional cost to the developer. Attorney Berchem confirmed the state statute reference should be 4b-77(c). Ald. Pacelli stated the prohibition would be the charging stations may not be underground and the City will review applications in reference to this ordinance once it is in effect. Ald. Smith stated he does not agree with the state mandate. Ald. Vitali stated the statutes were voted on by the general assembly and the Board is looking at the prohibition.

Ald. Casey and Ald. Federico made and seconded motion to amend Section 7-84 to read Connecticut General Statutes Section 4b-77(c). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried on the original motion, as amended, 14 in favor (Arciuolo, Beatty, Bevan, Casey, Federico, Fowler, Healy, Jenkins, Marlow, Mulrenan, Pacelli, Vetro, Vitali, Willis), 1 against (Smith).

- b. Public Safety and Welfare Committee – no report
- c. Public Works Committee – no report.
- d. Claims Committee - no report.
- e. Rules Committee - no report.
- f. Personnel Committee - no report.

13. Report of Special Committees.

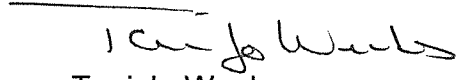
- a. Liaison Sub-Committee – Board of Education – Ald. Fowler reported the Board of Education budget has been completed and submitted.
- b. Liaison Sub-Committee – Flood & Erosion – no report.
- c. Liaison Sub-Committee – Park, Beach & Recreation Comm. – no report.
- d. Liaison Sub-Committee – Planning & Zoning Board – no report.
- e. Liaison Sub-Committee – Sewer Commission – Ald. Federico discussed recent sewer commission approvals.
- f. Liaison Sub-Committee – Harbor Management Commission – no report.
- g. Liaison – Council on Aging – Ald. Bevan reported on increases to lunch prices.
- h. Liaison Sub-Committee – Library Board – no report.
- i. Liaison Sub-Committee – Veterans Ceremony & Parade Commission – no report
- j. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fine Arts – no report
- k. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Redevelopment & Housing Partnership – no report
- l. Liaison – Golf Course Commission – Ald. Vitali reported on making the course more family friendly.
- m. Liaison – Inland Wetlands Agency – no report.
- n. Liaison – Board of Health – Ald. Mulrenan reported stated there are remaining ARPA funds and hope to use those funds to locate the Health Department and Human Services under one roof.
- o. Liaison – Human Services Commission – no report.
- p. Liaison Sub-Committee – Pension & Retirement Board – no report.
- q. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Government Access Television (MGAT) – no report.
- r. Liaison – Economic Development Commission – no report.
- s. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Arts Council – no report.
- t. Liaison Sub-Committee – Milford Progress, Inc. – no report.
- u. Liaison Sub-Committee – Fire Commission – Ald. Healy stated the Fire Commission is looking to host a visit by the Aldermen at the Seemans Lane facility.
- v. Liaison Sub-Committee – Police Commission – no report.
- w. Permanent School Facilities Building Committee – no report.

14. Executive Session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required for any item to be considered in executive session. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting is required to go into executive session.

Being no further business to discuss, Ald. Beatty and Ald. Mulrenan made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary